

## COLOXIAL AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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Raeke the reasons which brought Catholic powers like Spain and Austria into a close alliance with Protestant powers like England and Holland, and explains how Savoy was brought in and why Denmark was left out. Compare this passage with Macaulay's account of the origin of the Grand Alliance in his fourteenth chapter and you perceive that, while the one makes clear the causes of events, the other gives only a rhetorical summary of them.<sup>1</sup> Again, compare Macaulay's account of the congress at The Hague in 1691, given in his seventeenth chapter, with Ranke's treatment of the same gathering, and you perceive that one historian tries to bring out the essence of things while the other dwells on their externals.<sup>2</sup> Macaulay's battle pieces are elaborately finished works of art. Ranke in his narrative of the war of the Grand Alliance pays little attention to the battles ; he relates Steinkirk in eight lines and Neerwinde in two ; the effects of the war on the relations of the Euro-pean powers attract him more than its most picturesque episodes. The moving incident was not his trade. Read Macaulay's and Ranke's accounts of the Peace of Ryswick, side by side.<sup>3</sup> Both relate the negotiations, but while Ranke shows clearly why William was obliged to make peace Macaulay does not furnish the true explanation. The real cause was the defection of Savoy from the

Grand Alliance  
by the treaty of Turin in August 1696. This  
secured Louis  
on the side of Italy, and enabled him to use  
against the  
allies 30,000 excellent soldiers hitherto  
employed in Italy.  
The allies had to give up the idea of  
overcoming Louis and  
reducing France to the position it had occupied  
in 1659, at  
the time of the treaty of the Pyrenees. They  
had to lower  
their terms. Since Louis XIV was obliged to  
make con-

<sup>1</sup> v. 4-14 ; IV, 1698-1700 (xiv).

<sup>a</sup> IV, 1974-6 (xvii) ; v. 22, <sup>3</sup> VI, 2702-20 (xxii) ; v. 132-49.